

Sisters' Department.**CONFERENCE WORK FOR THE S. S. C. E.**

Our Conference is now not very far distant, and it is time for us to begin to think seriously upon what shall be done for the interests of the S. S. C. E. or rather that we should put our thoughts into form and words, for I doubt not that those interested have already been giving serious thought to it. The society has not as yet done all that we had hoped, all that we desired, all that we had expected it would do; yet we believe that there is a growing interest, and this we believe is far better than the meteor-like enthusiasm that often characterizes a work of this kind. A great deal of the success for the coming Conference year will depend upon what is done at the Conference. Then let us earnestly pray that it may be work wisely done.

We wish that the Conference Committee would give us one day for the S. S. C. E. work: yet so much important business will be before the Conference that we dare not hope for this, but we do ask that they give us half a day. The interests of the work demand this. Doubtless a good deal of time will be given to the College interests, the Publishing House, and the Tract Society, and it is well. The S. S. C. E. may become as great a factor in the church as any of these, if now, in its infancy or early childhood, it be properly cared for and nourished.

In order that the time given for the work be used to the best advantage, we need before going there, to have some definite plan of work, and this should be given careful thought and attention beforehand. A part of the work will be the election of officers. Those familiar with the constitution of the S. S. C. E. will remember that these officers consist of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Committee. This Executive Committee consists of sisters chosen from every State or Conference district—one sister from each. Let me make this so plain that every one may understand it. Indiana has a State Conference of her own; consequently chooses one sister to be a member of

the Executive Committee. Illinois, Iowa, and Dakota form the Illiokota District, and together hold a Conference. These three states choose one member of the Committee; likewise the Kanemorado District, the four states, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri and Colorado, choose one member. These sisters, forming the Executive Committee are to be chosen by the local societies,—for instance the local societies of Indiana will choose her member of the Committee, the Illiokota societies will choose her member, Ohio her member. The vote or choice of each local society must be taken before Conference and the result sent to Conference. Every local president of the S. S. C. E. should at a meeting of her society, not later than the first of August, take a vote of the members, for one sister from her state or district for the Committee, and send the result of that vote to the Conference. Then the sister in each state or district receiving the largest number of votes will become a member of the Committee. Every local society of every district should be represented at the Conference, either by delegate or letter, and the vote of the society sent to Conference by these. This is a matter of great importance to the work and *should not* be neglected.

These members of the Executive Committee will then, during Conference choose a President for the National Society, and from their own number choose a vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

Another part of the work will be a discussion of the best methods of promoting the interests of the work. As a help to these discussions, we should have carefully prepared papers upon the work in its different phases. It has been suggested by one of our sisters, that the progress of the work might be greatly accelerated if we had a National Organizer, a sister to go from church to church and organize new societies or visit and encourage those already organized. The suggestion is an excellent one, and it would be well to discuss the possibility of acting upon it.

There is a vast difference among the different societies as to methods of conducting the work. Some have only

public meetings with a literary program, some meet only for work, such as sewing, some combine the two and have in connection with the sewing or work, a short devotional service with essays or select readings. It would be of both interest and advantage to discuss the best method of conducting the local societies, so as to accomplish the purpose for which the S. S. C. E. has been organized.

Another important subject to be brought before the Conference is the disposition to be made of the funds in the Treasury. The original purpose was to use the funds for mission work, but during the last year, the funds now in Treasury have been awaiting a call from weak churches for mission work, but not a call has been made. In article II of the Constitution setting forth the object of the S. S. C. E. is a clause in connection with the purpose of the funds, which reads thus, "this includes supplying the chair in the theological department of Ashland University," and now that the church does not seem to need or want the funds for mission work, it is advised by some that it be used for supplying the theological chair in the College. It would be well to bring this subject before the S. S. C. E. at Conference. If the local societies who have contributed to this fund oppose its being used for this purpose they should instruct their delegates to vote against it. And yet another part of the work to be done at Conference to give added interest and enthusiasm to the work in the future will be to report the work already done. Let each society prepare a brief report of her work, the methods of work and results accomplished. The President of each local society can prepare this report or appoint one of the members of her society to do it.

I submit therefore the following program for the S. S. C. E. work at Conference.

1. Enrollment of delegates.
2. Election of officers.
3. The benefit and advisability of having a national organizer and the means by which she shall be supported.—Mrs. Laura Slotter.

General Discussion.

4. The best method of conducting the local society, so as to bring about